A NEW ALOE FROM ETHIOPIA.

By G. W. Reynolds.

(With Plate V.)

Aloe Jacksonii Reynolds. Species nova, *A. jucunda* Reynolds floribus arcte affinis, sed caule gracile (20 cm.), et foliis longioribus, angustioribus differt.

Planta succulenta, parva, sobolifera, caespitosa. *Caules* usque ad 20 cm. longi, 8—10 mm. diam. *Folia* anguste subulato-attenuata, patula, 10—15 cm. longa, 10—14 mm. lata, supra leviter canaliculata, subtus convexa, utrinque maculata, ad margines dentibus albidis minutis ·5—1 mm. longis, 3—6 mm. distantibus munita. *Inflorescentia* simplex, 25 cm. alta. *Racemus* 5—7 cm. longus, laxe ca. 10—14-floribus. *Bracteae* ovato-acuminatae, albidae, subscariosae, 4 mm. longae, 2·5 mm. latae, 3-nervatae. *Pedicelli* 5—7 mm. longi. *Perigonium* coccineum, cylindricum, 27 mm. longum; segmenta exteriora per 6 mm. libera. *Antherae* 2 mm. exsertae. *Stigma* demum 3 mm. exserta. *Ovarium* 5 mm. longum, 2 mm. diametro. (Plate V.)

Ethiopia: Ogaden Prov., El Carre, ca. 5° 50′ N., 42° 07′ E., coll. T. H. E. Jackson, cult. Johannesburg, fl. 7 June 1953, Reynolds 6224 holotype (PRE); Reynolds 7629 without flowers (PRE, K).

This distinctive new species was first collected in 1943 at El Carre by Mr. T. H. E. Jackson when he was Acting Senior Civil Affairs Officer during the war. El Carre lies west-south-west of Gabredarre, at a point about 120 miles north of Dolo, in the Ogaden Province of Ethiopia.

Mr. Jackson states, "El Carre is a strange rock outcrop with precipitous sides, and the station was built below the precipice. There is a steep path winding up a cleft, and the Aloes were found along the edge at the top."

Plants were sent by Mr. Jackson to Mr. P. R. O. Bally, botanist at the Coryndon Museum, Nairobi, and in 1951 Mr. Bally sent a specimen to me. This plant grew well in Johannesburg where it flowered in June 1953. Subsequently, in August 1954, I studied a large group of plants (not flowering) in Mr. Jackson's garden, on his estate "Kapretwa", west of Kitale, on lower foothills of Mount Elgon, Kenya Colony. Under those conditions, at 6,500 feet, plants flower in February.

A. Jacksonii is one of a group of species very closely allied in racemes, short pedicels, and flowers, but differing considerably in habit of growth and in leaf characters. This group has not yet been worked out, but it includes at least four species. One of these is *A. jucunda* Reynolds from Gaan Libah, Somaliland Protectorate, which is almost identical in simple inflorescence characters, but differs in having broadly ovate-acuminate leaves which are only 4 cm. long and 2·5 cm. broad. (See this *Journal* 19: 21 (1953), Plate XI.)

Another species, hardly separable from *A. Jacksonii* and *A. jucunda* in simple inflorescence characters, was found in numbers by Mr. Bally 8 miles north-west of Borama, 10 miles east of Borama, on the Fodjor escarpment west of Sheik, and in the Waggar Mountains, all in Somaliland Protectorate. It is distinguished by having broadly ovate-attenuate leaves 10—15 cm. long, and is awaiting description.

Another near ally in racemes and flowers only, is *A. Erensii* Christian, from Lokitaung, Turkana, Kenya Colony, but this is a much larger plant with a 6-branched inflorescence up to 55 cm. in height. (See *Fl. Plants S. Afr.* Plate 797 (1940).)

A. Jacksonii is distinguished from its nearest allies by having erect or sprawling slender stems up to 20 cm. long forming dense groups, and especially by its narrowly subulate-attenuate leaves up to 15 cm. long but only 10—14 mm. broad.

DESCRIPTION. A small soboliferous, caespitose, succulent plant forming compact groups up to 30 cm. and more across.

Stem simple or branched at base, erect or sprawling, 10—20 cm. long, 8—10 mm. diam.

Leaves 5—7 at apex of stems, narrowly subulate-attenuate, 10—15 cm. long, 10—14 mm. broad near base, basally sheathing, with short striate internodes, youngest leaves suberect, older leaves spreading and with an obtuse apex bearing 1—2 firm white spines about 1—2 mm. long; *upper surface* slightly concave low down, more canaliculate upwards (more fleshy and plano-convex in cross-section in watered cultivated plants), dull green with several dull very pale-green lenticular markings irregularly scattered mostly in lower half of leaf; *lower surface* rounded, dull greyish-green, with numerous dull pale-greenish lenticulate markings or spots irregularly scattered or sometimes arranged in broken transverse bands; *margins* straight, with isolated, firm, deltoid, white teeth which are reddish-brown tipped and about 1 mm. long low down, 3—6 mm. distant, becoming smaller to obsolescent upwards. *Sap* dries yellow.

Inflorescence simple, 22—25 cm. long.

Peduncle plano-convex and 4 mm. broad at base, terete and 2·5 mm. diam. below the raceme, with about 5 sterile-bracts, the lowest ovate-acuminate, thin, white, 5-nerved, 7 mm. long, 5 mm. broad, gradually smaller upwards.

Raceme cylindric, 5—7 cm. long, laxly 10—14-flowered, youngest buds suberect, open flowers pendulous, the apex a small tuft of wilted bracts.

Bracts ovate-acuminate, 4 mm. long, 2·5 mm. broad at base, thin, subscarious, white, 3-nerved.

Pedicels 5—7 mm. long.

Perianth bright scarlet-red (R.C.S. I) or scarlet (R.H.S. Colour Chart 19/1), paler to almost white at the mouth, 27 mm. long, cylindric-trigonous, basally flat, 8 mm. diam. over the ovary, thence narrowing very slightly to the throat with the mouth wide open; *outer segments* free for 6 mm., with white edges, 3-nerved, the apices subacute, spreading; *inner segments* broader than the outer, and with more obtuse more spreading apices.

Filaments yellow, filiform-flattened, the 3 inner narrower and lengthening before the 3 outer, with their *anthers* in turn exserted 2 mm.

Style filiform, with *stigma* at length exserted 3 mm.

Ovary pale olive, 5 mm. long, 2 mm. diam.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

Although it was not possible to reach El Carre, I am indebted to the South African Council for Scientific and Industrial Research for a travelling grant which enabled me to investigate several other species of Aloe in Southern Ethiopia and Somalia in September 1953.

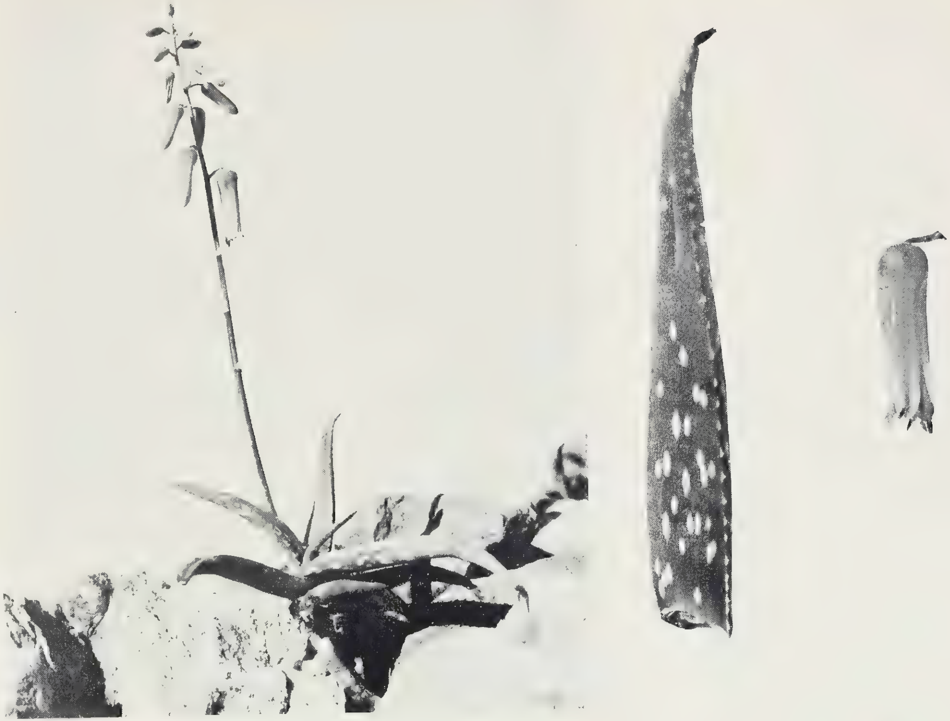

Fig. 1. Fig. 2. Fig 3.

Plate V. *A. Jacksonii* Reynolds.

Fig. 1.—Young plant × 1/3 approx., from El Carre, Ogaden, Ethiopia, cult. Johannesburg, fl. 7 June 1953.

Fig. 2.—Leaf 1/1, showing upper surface and marginal teeth.

Fig. 3.—Flower 1/1 with pedicel and bract.